(c) what are the details of the steps taken to develop those degraded forest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No estimate has been made of the extent of degradation in the country, State-wise.

(c) Stpes taken to develop these degraded forests involve protection of such forests from grazing, fires, encroachment and restriction on fellings especially in hilly areas. An area of 9 million hectares of degraded land is targetted for regeneration during Eighth Five Year Plan by suitable reafforestaion prorgamme.

Pollution Caused by Cement Factory in Rajgangpur in Orissa

1450. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cement plant at Rajgangpur in Orissa has not taken adequate air pollution control measures;

(b) wheher the entire Rajgangpur and its adjoining areas are affected due to air pollution; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the cement plant for not taking adequate pollution control measures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s Orissa Cement at Rajgangpur in Orissa has taken all the necessary air polluton control measures to control air pollution and are meeting the emission standard. The air pollution in that area has decreased considerably after the cement plant has installed the appropriate pollution control devices.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregularities in plantation programme in Orissa

1451. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale irregularities taking place in the plantation programme in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such irregularities; and

(c) what are the details of different afforestation programme undertaken by Government in that State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) No specific instances of large scale irregularities in the plantation programme in Orissa have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government is implementing the Social Forestry Project in all the districts of Orissa, with assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The main components of the project are establishment of village woodlots, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, farming for the rural poor and farm forestry. In addition, afforestation and social forestry activities are being carried out in Orissa under the Wastelands Development Programme, the Rural Employment Programme and the Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Central Government.

Felling of tress and smuggling of Forest Wealth from Phulbani and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa

1452. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT ANE FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale felling of trees and smuggling of valuable species of plants are takin place in Orissa, particularly in Phulban and Kalahandi districts; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to check the felling of trees and smuggling of valuable forest wealth in those part of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (b) Information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Shifting of the units of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre from Trivandrum

1453. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Units of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (V.S.S.C.) at Trivandrum have already been shifted outside Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some more Units of the Centre are proposed to be shifted outside Kerala;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Valiamala, Trivandrum have the facilities to run important Units like P.T.U. and S.S.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) there are no plans to shift any Units belonging to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from Trivandrum. On the other hand, ISRO is planning to establish new Units in Trivandrum, under the overall supervision of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) to achieve greater efficiency and flexibility and to expand certain critical activities of relevance not only to VSSC, but also to other ISRO Centres.

(e) The Valiamala Facilities at VSSC were established in the year 1983 primarily for launch vehicles integration and check out development of other launch vehicle systems, etc. Duplication of facilities were not planned at Valiamala for the activities like Pressure Transducer Unit (PUT) and Statellite Systems Division (SSD) which were already in progress at other places.

Demands of civilian defence canteen employees for pay at par wih Government employees

1554. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Civilian Defence Canteen Employees have been demanding the status of Government employees in connection with the fixation of their pay and other allowances;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a resolution passed at a meeting of the All Indian Defence Civilian Canteen Employees Union held at Chandigarh on the 23rd July, 1990 in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of their demands and decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Representations have been received from the employees of the Unit Run Canteens (URCs) seeking parity with Government employees in the fixation of their pay and other allowances. URCs are non-Government canteens being funded through the non-public funds of the Defence Services. Their scales of pay and terms of engagement are based on agreements between the employees and the employers, as in the case of other private employment.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.